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BOOK REVIEWS.

HISTORY OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA, 1746-1786, WASHINGTON COUNTY, 1777-1780. By Lewis Preston Summers, of the Abingdon Bar, Alumnus of the University of Virginia, and of Tulane University, Louisiana, and Member of the Virginia Historical Society. Richmond, Va. J. L. Hill Printing Co., 1903. Pp. 921, with illustrations and map.

Some time ago notice was made in this Magazine that Mr. Lewis P. Summers, of Abingdon, Va., was at work on a history of Southwest Virginia, in general, and, particularly, of Washington county, and a favorable presage drawn from the intelligence and zeal with which he was making investigations in the public records. The history has now been published, and it is gratifying to be able to say that the author has well fulfilled the expectations and hopes then expressed.

There will be, of course, differences of opinion in regard to the plan of a county history, and as to how far it is necessary to recite the general history of a country in such a book. There are also some minor errors in Mr. Summers' book, which will be pointed out, but these things are insignificant when compared with its real and permanent value. A useful addition has been made to the history of Virginia, and especially to that portion of it which includes the "Winning of the West."

The author begins at a remote date, treating briefly of the early voyages to America and the settlement of Virginia. He then takes up the seventeenth and eighteenth century explorations of the western part of the colony, and goes on, through the famous trip of the "Horseshoe Knights," until he reaches the time of the first settlements in Southwest Virginia. He also gives an account of the adjacent tribes of Indians.

Beginning with chapter II there is a minute and carefully studied account of the explorations and settlements in the southwest, beginning about 1745. For several chapters the story of the pioneers proceeds, with a wealth of detail, which could only have been obtained by the most careful research.

In 1754, the French and Indian War commenced. It was to delay but could only temporarily check the onward movement of the hardy frontiersmen. The numerous Indian raids and massacres in the section of country treated of, and the defensive and offensive operations of the Virginians, are described by Mr. Summers with minute particularity. He tells of the early forts, of the "Sandy Creek Expedition," of the building of Fort Loudoun, and other defensive works within the present State of Tennessee, a State which the Southwestern Virginians

helped so largely to found; of Boone and others, who made Southwest Virginia a base from which they started on their daring trips to Kentucky, and describes the fighting all along the frontier.

In all of these accounts the author gives hundreds of names to which great numbers of descendants throughout the country may now look back with pride.

Mr. Summers writes, with the same fullness, of that little known but very important part of our history, which includes the treaties with the southwestern Indians by which our frontier was advanced. He gives the texts of the treaties of Fort Stanwix (1768) and Lochaber (1770). Beginning in 1769 the civil and military history of the counties of Botetourt and Fincastle is given, so far as the section of the territory under discussion is concerned. The records of these counties have afforded valuable data. It may be added here that it would have been of interest if the author had told us where the records of the extinct county of Fincastle are preserved.

The colonial period ends, practically, with the battle of Point Pleasant, and following this the history of the part played by southwestern Virginia in the Revolution is fully described. There is an especially carefully studied and interesting account of the King's Mountain campaign.

The heroic period of this section of county ended with the close of the Revolution, though for a number of years later the settlers had to fight the Indians in order to protect their homes.

The last portion of the book contains the history of the county of Washington, as it now exists, from the end of the Revolution down to 1870, and includes its share in the wars of 1812 and 1861-65.

Biographical sketches, the journal of Dr. Thomas Walker, 1749-50, lists of early surveys, of representatives in Congress, the Virginia Legislature and Conventions, justices, sheriffs, attorneys, clerks, surveyors, constables, ministers and militia officers of various counties, and of the Revolutionary soldiers of Washington county are also included.

The vast amount of personal detail throughout the book is sure to especially impress the reader. This, while adding life and reality to the narrative, greatly increases the interest the History of Southwest Virginia will have for the tens of thousands of people who trace their ancestry to that once remote frontier country.

To the historian and genealogist alike Mr. Summers' book must be of much value.

With all of its merits, however, it has defects. The index is not good. While seeming to be quite full and accurate, it is evident that the person who compiled it had no thought in regard to an index save that words beginning with the same letter should be put together. Thus we have the index under "F" beginning with "Forts" and ending with "Fin-

castle." It requires a search throughout an entire letter to learn whether any given reference is in it.

It seems strange that a writer who knows the value of manuscript authority as well as Mr. Summers' does, should not understand the necessity of stating where these authorities are. Though he made constant use of such sources his references are few in number.

Both of these matters can be attended to in a second edition, which is sure to be called for at no very distant date.

The statements (p. 16) that Bacon's rebellion was in 1666, and (p. 39) that Spotsylvania county was formed from Sussex are, of course, surely inadvertencies.

We can heartily commend this last addition to our historical literature.

THE MOTHER OF WASHINGTON AND HER TIMES. By Mrs. Roger A. Pryor. New York. The Macmillan Company. London. Macmillan & Co., Ltd. 1903. Pp. 367. Illustrated.

There has been much nonsense talked and written about Mary, the mother of Washington. At times she has been viewed in the glory reflected from her great son; again, she has been described as a coarse and ignorant boor. The truth lies in the sane and correct view taken by Mrs. Pryor.

From their first settlement in Virginia, about 1650, the Balls held a social position equal to any family in their section of country, and had a political influence which is attested by the numerous offices held by various members.

There was but little opportunity for the education of women at that day and less need for them to write (though Mrs. Washington's spelling is as good as some English countesses of the time), for correspondence was limited chiefly to business matters. She doubtless had the ordinary "Three R's" which could be gained at some small school in her neighborhood, and learned the usual domestic accomplishments, which were universally practiced by Virginia ladies.

It is plain that she was a woman of serious, perhaps stern nature, with a strength of mind and self-control which she transmitted to her son. This firmness and strength is indicated by many of the incidents of her life, which we know, and especially in her desire to be independent, and in the absence of any parade or pose, which, being the mother of such a son, might have produced in a weak woman.

She trained George Washington to be what he was, and this makes all other discussion of her needless. Mrs. Pryor has industriously collected and carefully considered all of the little which can be learned in regard to Mrs. Washington; but of course this little cannot make a book. The remainder of the work is taken up with pleasant sketches